

Forest Plan Revision

Process Overview & Timeline

Why are we
revising our
plan?
(and why does it matter?)



The National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA) says:

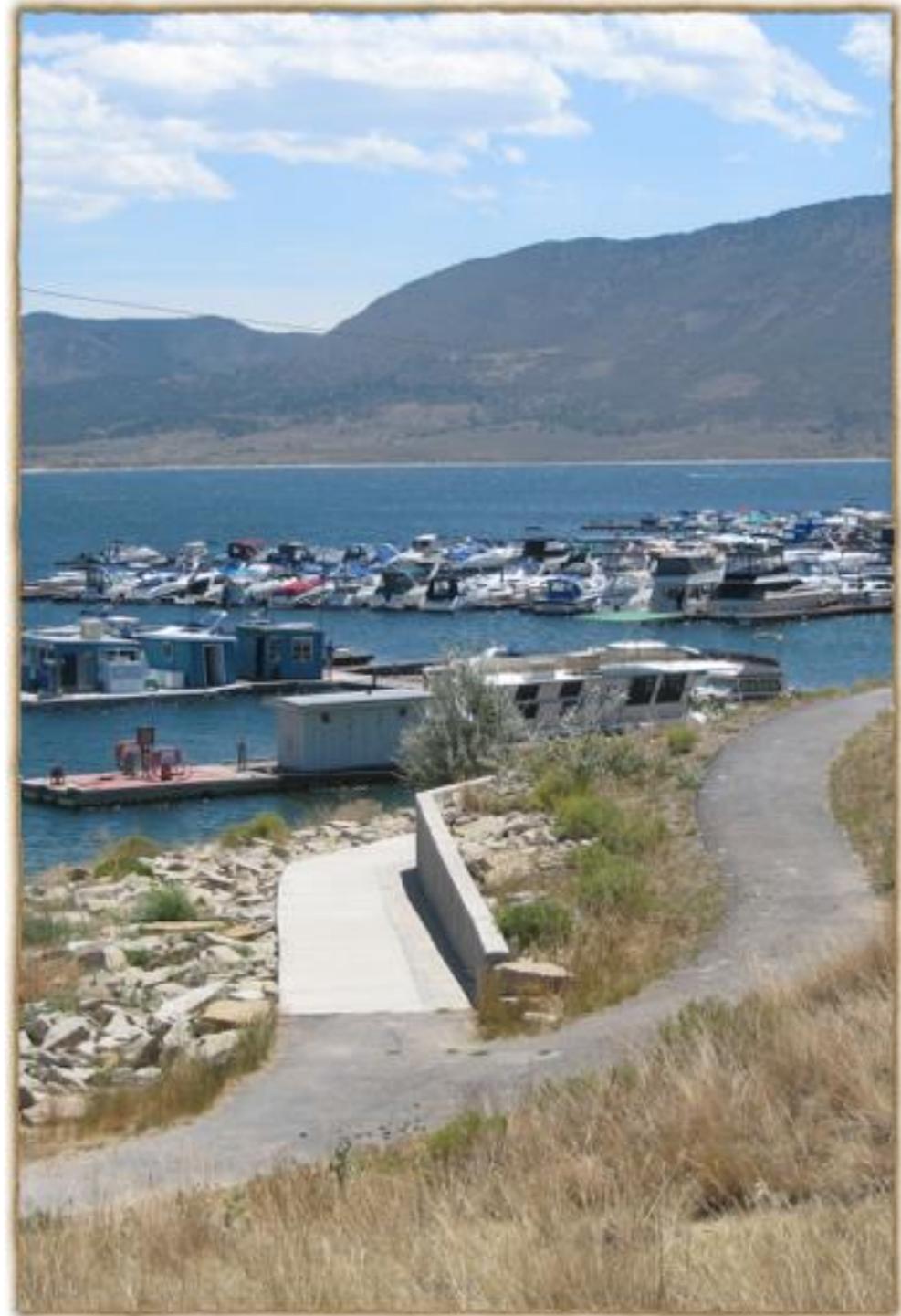
- ✓ We shall have a plan that provides for multiple use and sustained yield of the products and services obtained from each National Forest;
- ✓ The plan shall be prepared by an interdisciplinary team, based on inventories of applicable resources; and
- ✓ The Plan shall be revised from time to time when conditions on the Forest have significantly changed

What does a Forest Plan do?

- Provides strategic direction for all management actions for about 15 years
- Does not make site-specific decisions
- Does describe the desired outcome(s) of management, in broad terms
- Provides objectives, standards and guidelines to guide projects

Our Plan was signed in 1986

- Technical info is out of date
- Many current issues missing or minimally discussed
- Mostly standards and guidelines, little info on desired outcomes



NFMA also says:

“The Secretary shall promulgate regulations that set out the process for developing or revising plans”

This is what the Forest Service Planning Rule does (36 CFR 219).



The Planning Process:

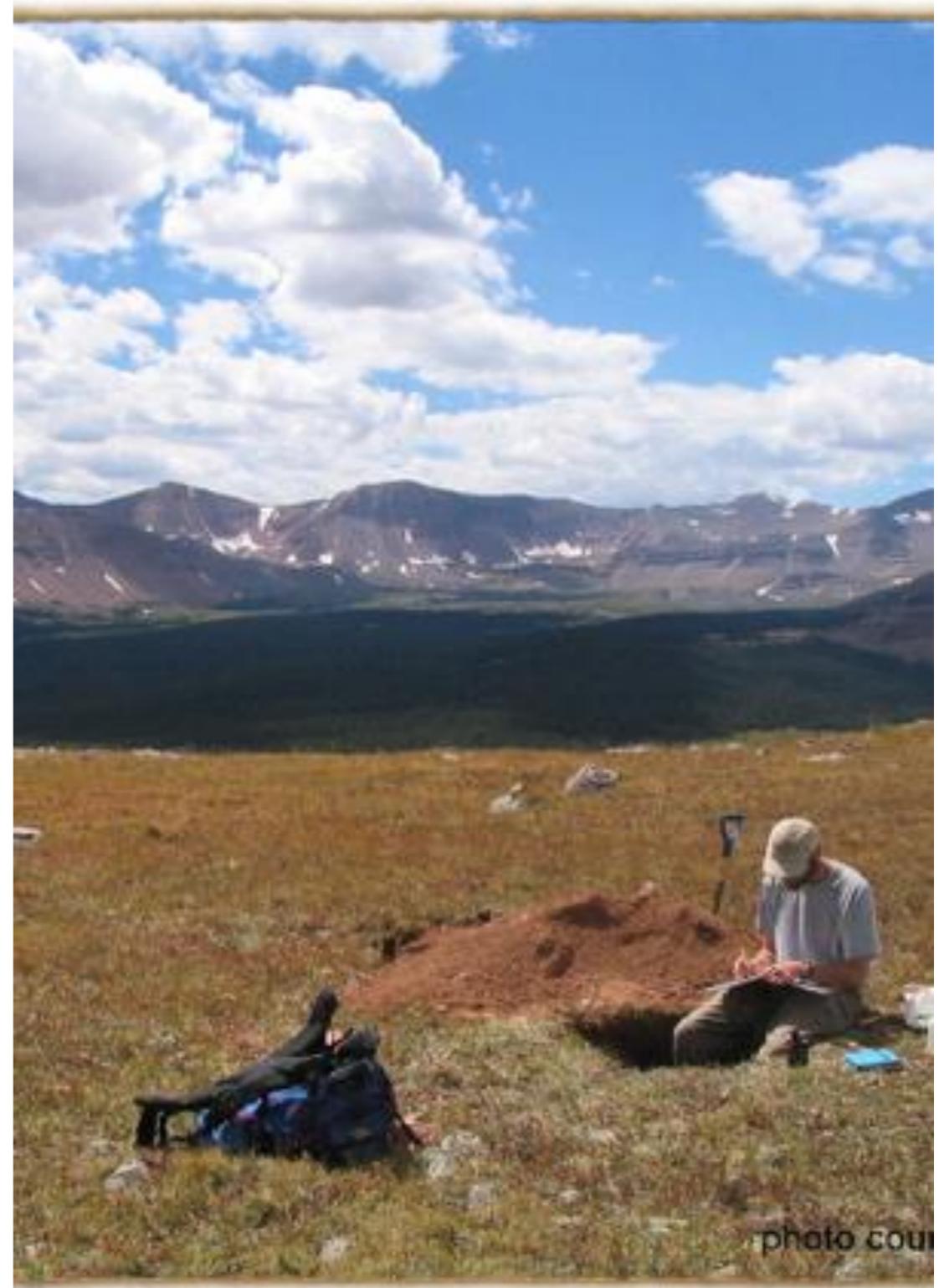
Assessment - Plan Development - Monitoring

The planning rule emphasizes:

- Using best available science
- Providing meaningful opportunities for public involvement early and throughout the process
- Providing for ecological sustainability and contributing to social and economic sustainability
- Producing a plan that is adaptable and within our capability to implement

Phase 1: Assessment

1. Rapidly evaluate existing, available, & relevant information
2. Describe conditions & trends for social, cultural, economic & ecological resources
3. Summarize in a report



Phase 2: Develop Plan

1. Use assessment to identify preliminary need for change
2. Prepare a draft plan
3. Develop alternatives to respond to issues
4. Analyze in an EIS



Public Participation in the Draft Plan and EIS

- Help develop need for change & draft plan
- Comment on need for change & draft plan
- Help develop alternatives
- Comment on DEIS
- Opportunity to object to draft decision

Phase 3: Monitoring

Ongoing; prepare and publish a report every 2 years and amend as needed.



Special Designations

Wilderness: NFMA requires us to inventory and evaluate areas that may be suitable for designation as wilderness during plan revision. This may or may not lead to a recommendation to designate new wilderness. If a recommendation is made, only Congress can make the final decision.

Wild & Scenic Rivers: mostly done in the 2008 state-wide suitability decision. May need some supplemental analysis during revision.

Public Participation in Special Designation Analyses:

- Public review of draft inventories
- Public review of draft evaluations
- Public participation in development of recommendations, if any

4 Year Timeline:

Assessment: July 2016 -Jan 2017

Plan Development (EIS): Feb 2017-Sept 2019

Monitoring: ongoing for life of the plan